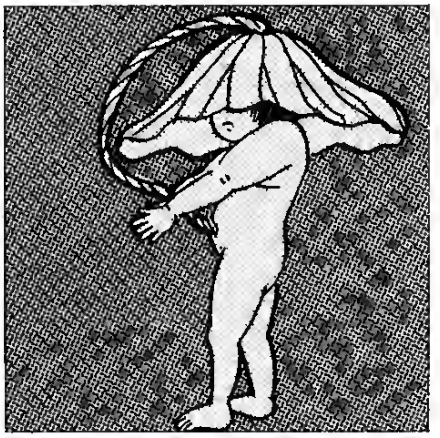
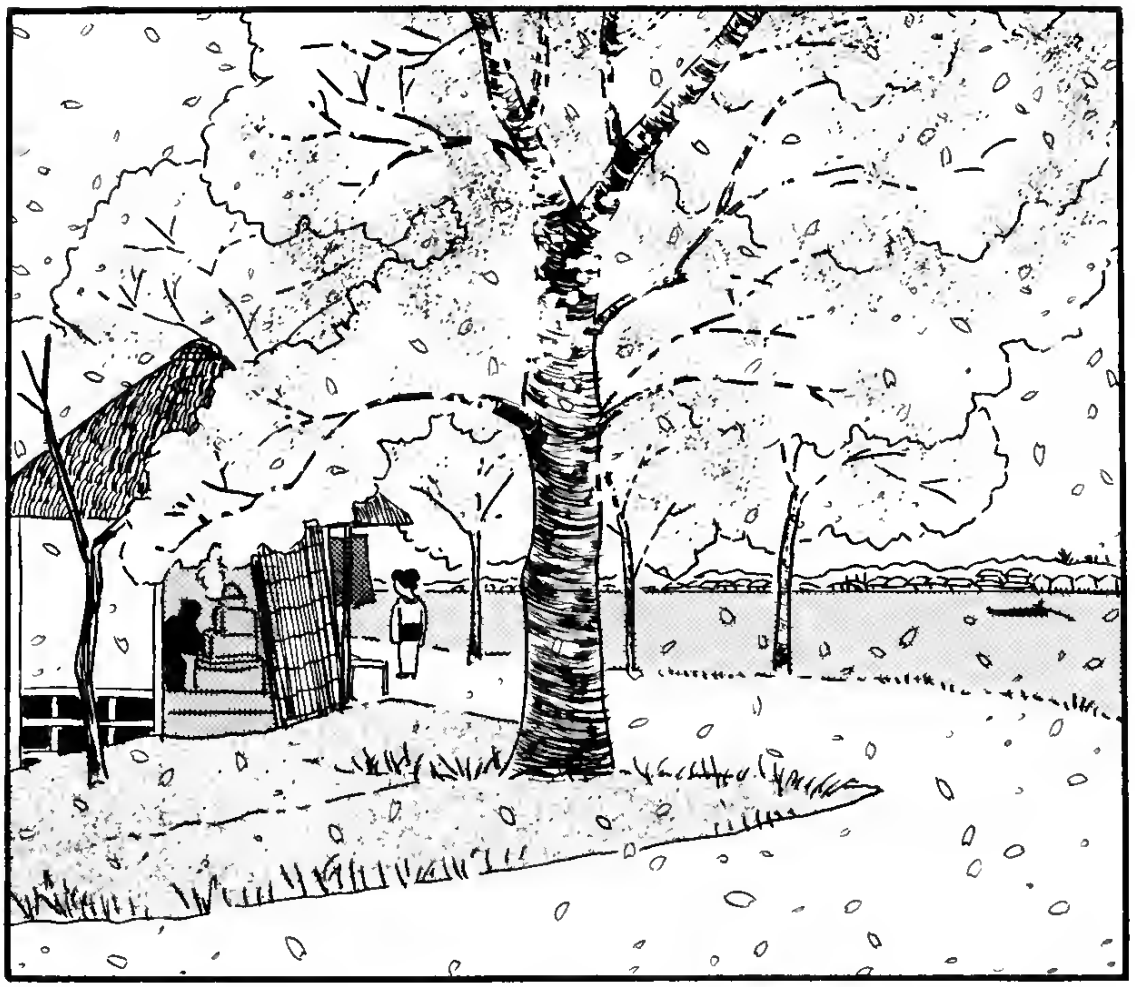
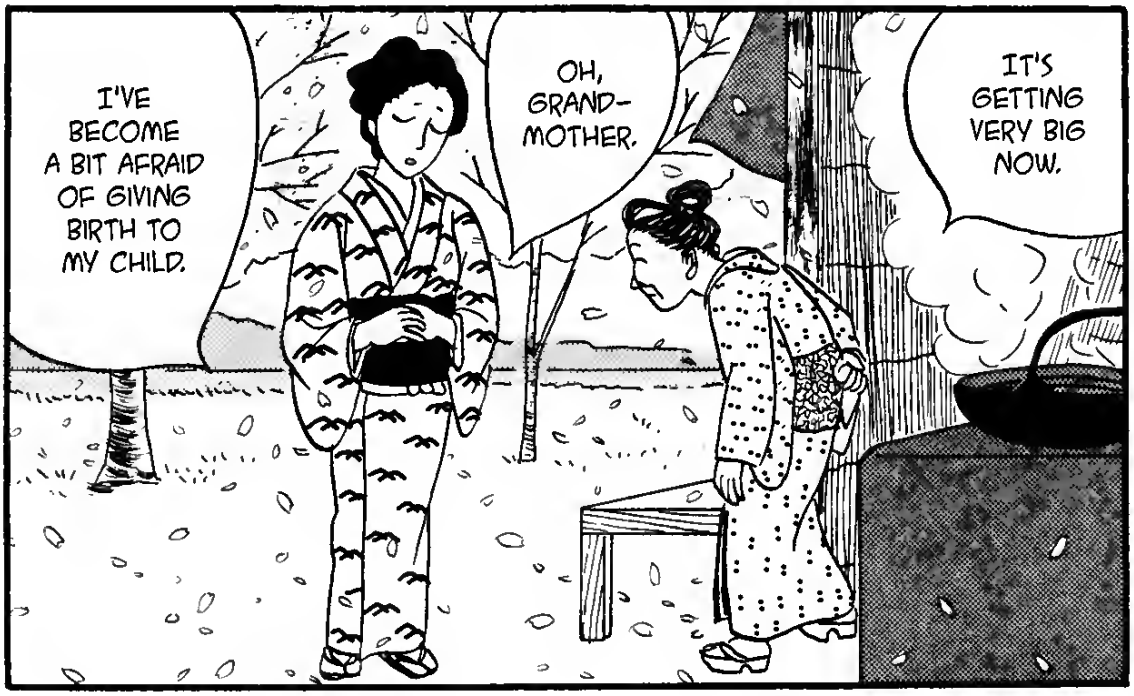
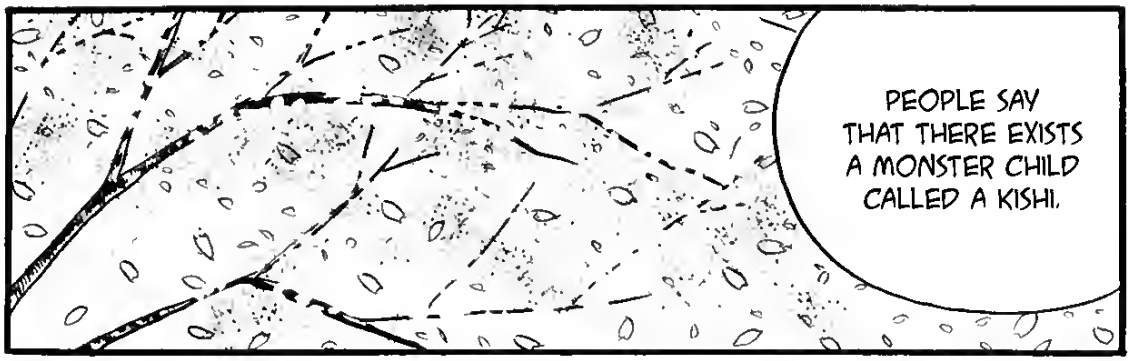
Tale 14 & Tale 15

Two Tales of Birth Monsters



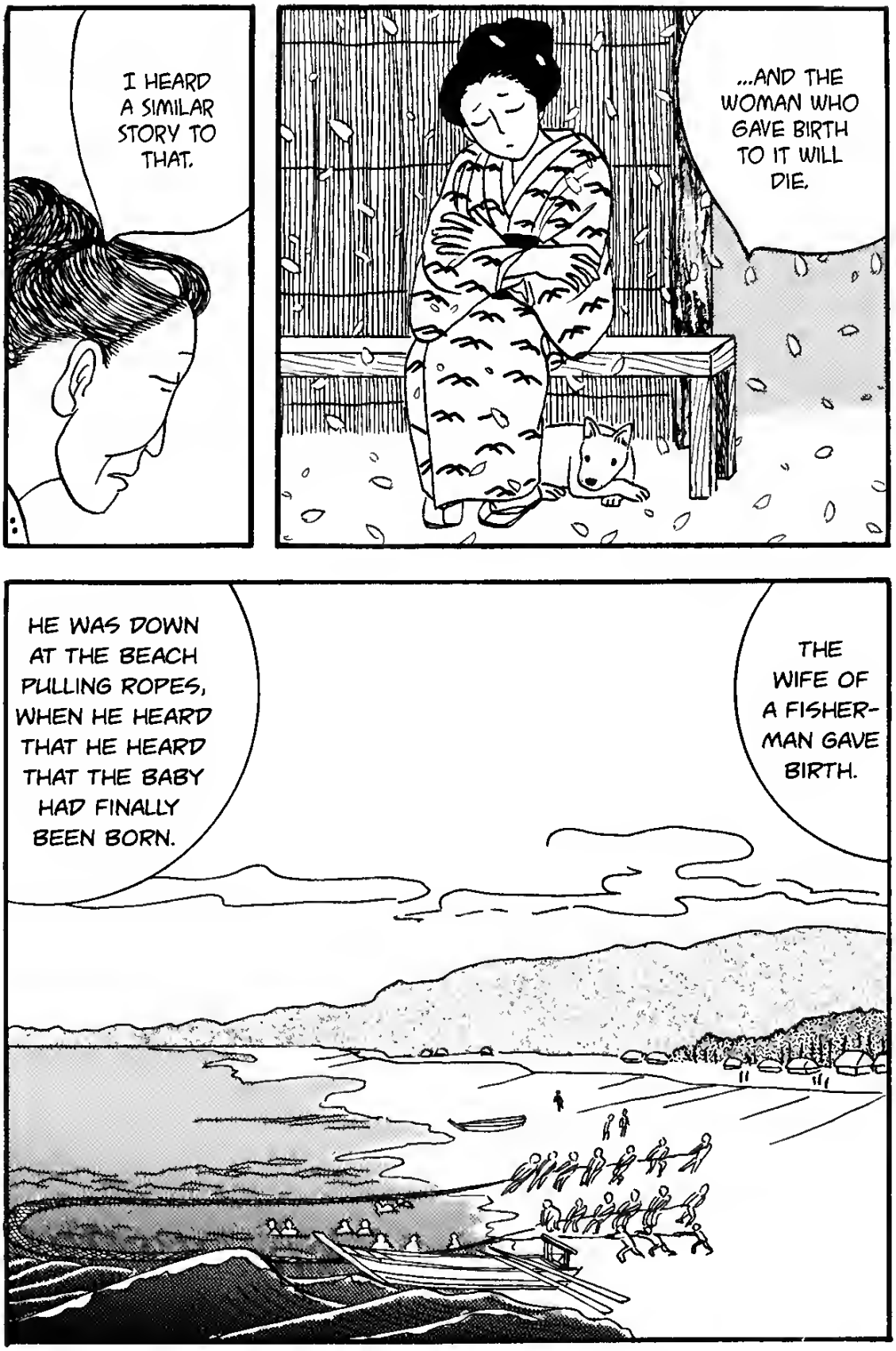


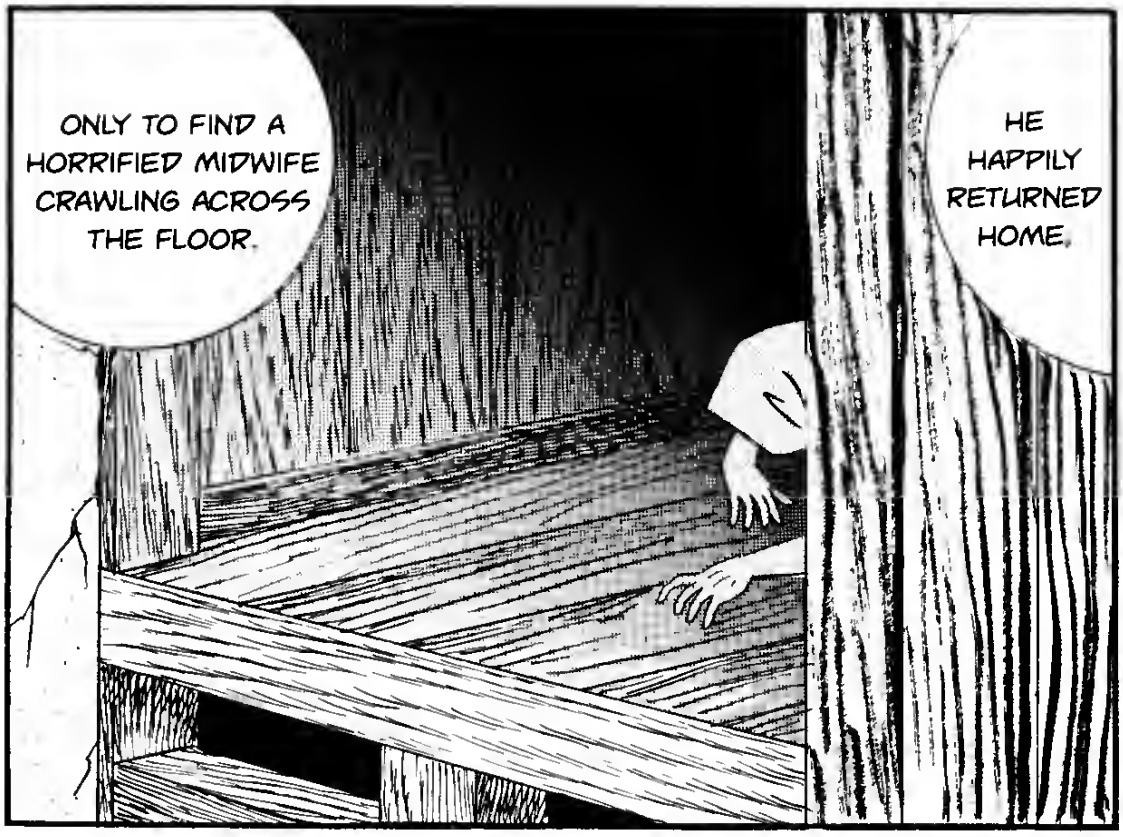

I'VE BECOME A BIT AFRAID OF GIVING BIRTH TO MY CHILD.
OH, GRAND-MOTHER.
IT'S GETTING VERY BIG NOW.

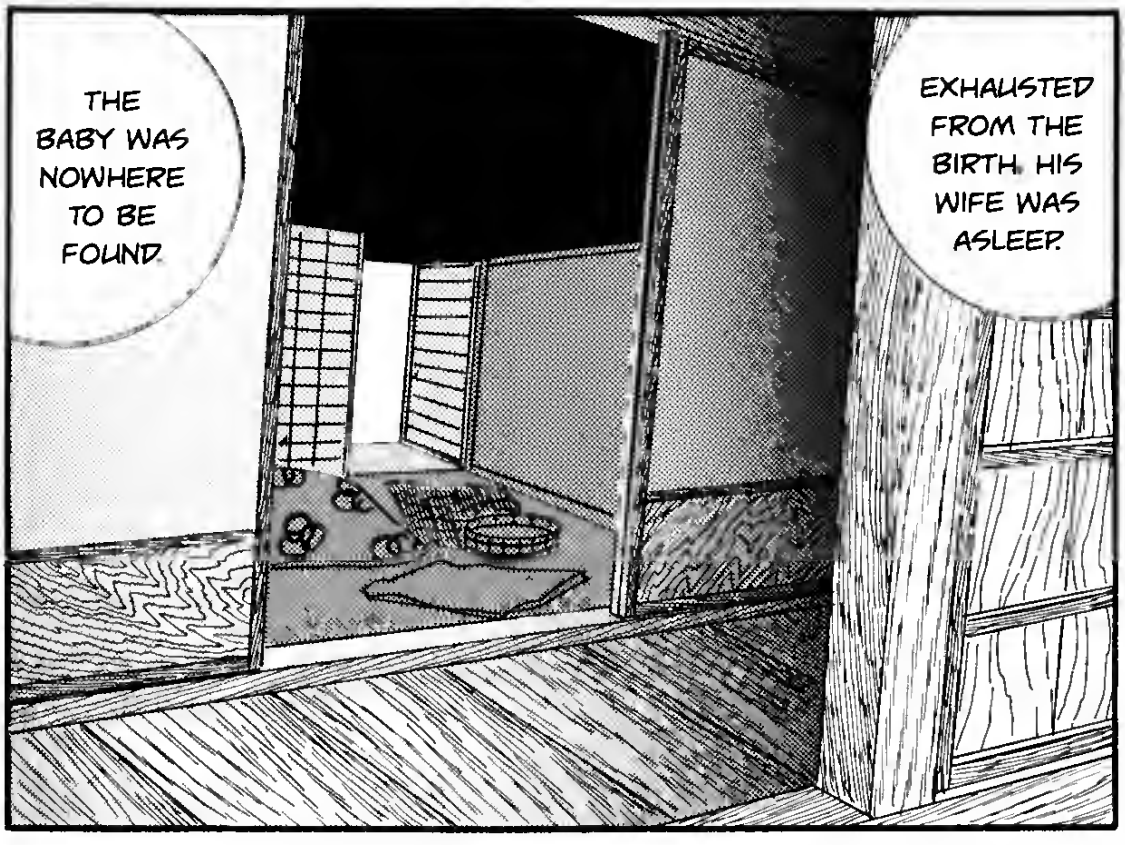


IT LOOKS
LIKE A TURTLE,
BUT ITS BACK IS
COVERED IN THICK
HAIR, AND SOON
AFTER IT'S BORN,
IT RACES INTO
THE BUSHES.

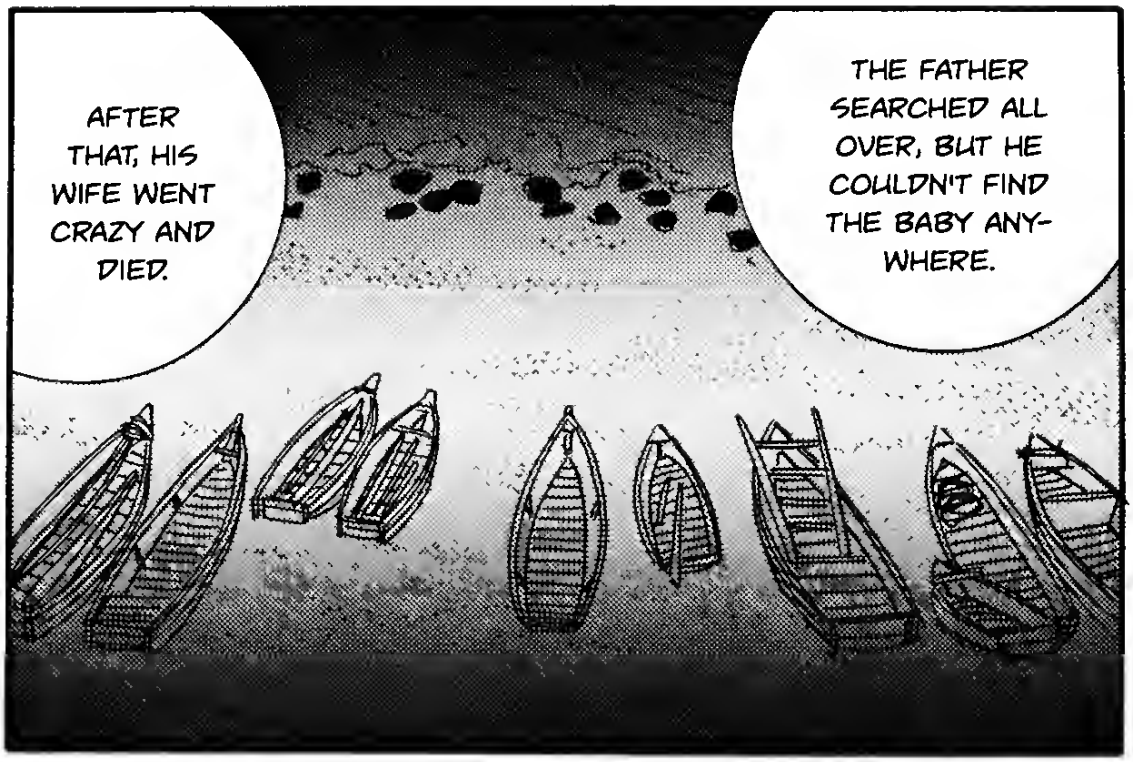
YOU SHOULD
JUST KILL IT THERE,
BUT IF YOU FAIL TO,
IT WILL EVENTUALLY
RETURN TO WHERE
IT WAS BORN...


I HEARD A SIMILAR STORY TO THAT.
...AND THE WOMAN WHO GAVE BIRTH TO IT WILL DIE.
HE WAS DOWN AT THE BEACH PULLING ROPES, WHEN HE HEARD THAT HE HEARD THAT THE BABY HAD FINALLY BEEN BORN.
THE WIFE OF A FISHERMAN GAVE BIRTH.


ONLY TO FIND A HORRIFIED MIDWIFE CRAWLING ACROSS THE FLOOR.
HE HAPPILY RETURNED HOME.


THE BABY WAS NOWHERE TO BE FOUND.
EXHAUSTED FROM THE BIRTH, HIS WIFE WAS ASLEEP.

EVENTUALLY, THE MIDWIFE TOLD HIM WHAT HAPPENED.
WHEN SHE CUT THE BABY'S UMBILICAL CORD, IT INSTANTLY STOOD UP AND WALKED OUTSIDE WITH A BIG GRIN ON ITS FACE.


AFTER THAT, HIS WIFE WENT CRAZY AND DIED.
THE FATHER SEARCHED ALL OVER, BUT HE COULDN'T FIND THE BABY ANY-WHERE.

I'VE BECOME EVEN MORE FRIGHTENED NOW.
WHAT SHOULD I DO, GRAND-MOTHER?

AN EVIL COUNTENANCE ALWAYS APPEARS ON THE FACES OF WOMEN WHO GIVE BIRTH TO MONSTERS.
CALM YOUR HEART AND LISTEN CLOSELY.
YOU'VE GOT AN OTAFUKU FACE, SO I'M SURE THERE'S A TREASURE IN YOUR STOMACH.
NOW, HERE'S YOUR SWEET SAKE.

Otafuku refers to a type of face often seen in Japanese women, usually characterized by having narrow eyes, a flat nose, and comparatively fat cheeks. If translated literally, the kanji characters for 'otafuku' mean 'lots of fortune.'